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19 March 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT : OXCART Status Report**

1. Aircraft #121 (J-58 engines), an instrumented flight test vehicle, made flight #57 on 18 March for a duration of forty-four minutes. On the first checkout flight (#56) of aircraft #121 with J-58 engines, the aircraft reached Mach 2.16 and 56,000 feet. On flight #57, the aircraft reached Mach 2.49 and 62,000 feet. The landing was routine with normal chute deployment.

2. The flight of aircraft #122, scheduled for 18 March, was cancelled. During preflight inspection of the aircraft, spots were discovered on the backside of a blade of the first stage compressor on J-58 engine #208. The spots, in the form of dimples about 1/4 inch in diameter, appear to have been caused by relatively smooth objects. It, therefore, was decided to cancel the flight in order to borescope the engine.

3. Aircraft #124 (trainer) made flight #39 for a duration of one hour and twenty-four minutes. The purposes of the flight were to check out the aircraft following a fifty hour periodic maintenance inspection and to conduct a preliminary night lighting check. The take-off was made at 1710 hours [redacted]. After various checks, maneuvers, airstarts and accelerations up to Mach 1.1, the pilot made low approaches [redacted] checking cockpit and landing lights. The pilot reports that both landing and cockpit lights on the aircraft require adjustments. The landing was routine with normal chute deployment.

4. Aircraft #121 is tentatively scheduled for a test flight on 19 March for the purpose of extending the flight envelope. Aircraft #124 (trainer) is tentatively scheduled for three flights on 19 March: two flights are for the purpose of checking out [redacted] Base Commander, in the aircraft, and a third flight, with Lockheed test

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pilot at the controls, is the first scheduled night test flight. The next flight of aircraft #122 is in abeyance until the completion of the boroscoping of engine #208. Aircraft #123 is undergoing a maintenance inspection and upon completion will resume tests of camera and inertial navigation systems. Aircraft #125 is grounded for the installation of a new pressurized nose and ARC-50 equipment. Aircraft #126 is being shipped to the Area from Burbank on 19 March.

JOHN PARANGOSKY  
Chief, Development Division  
(Special Activities)

John Parangosky/C/DD/OSA:hmj (19 March 1963)

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